



**Colorado
Legislative
Council
Staff**

SB17-103

FISCAL NOTE

FISCAL IMPACT: State Local Statutory Public Entity Conditional No Fiscal Impact

Drafting Number: LLS 17-0848
Prime Sponsor(s): Sen. Merrifield

Date: February 13, 2017
Bill Status: Senate Education
Fiscal Analyst: Anna Gerstle (303-866-4375)

BILL TOPIC: EARLY LEARNING STRATEGIES IN ED ACCOUNTABILITY

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2017-2018	FY 2018-2019
State Revenue		
State Expenditures	\$9,000	Workload increase.
General Fund	9,000	
Appropriation Required: \$9,000 - Department of Education (FY 2017-18).		
Future Year Impacts: Ongoing workload increase.		

Summary of Legislation

The bill adds early childhood education strategies and needs assessments to the supports and interventions provided by the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) to low performing schools and school districts.

Technical assistance. Under current law, CDE provides technical assistance and support, including strategies to address early childhood education, to school districts and public schools accredited under an improvement plan, priority improvement plan, or turnaround plan. The bill specifies that technical assistance may include research-based strategies addressing the quality and availability of early childhood education opportunities.

Needs assessment. Under current law, a district or school priority improvement plan or turnaround plan must assess and prioritize the needs of the district. The bill adds that the plan must also include an early childhood learning needs assessment and specifies the early childhood learning needs to be included in the assessment.

For a turnaround plan for a school serving students in kindergarten through third grade, the bill specifies that strategies identified in the turnaround plan may include research-based strategies related to the quality and availability of early childhood education that address the deficiencies identified in the needs assessment.

State review panel recommendations. Under current law, if a public school fails to make progress under a turnaround plan or continues to operate under a priority improvement or turnaround plan for five consecutive school years, a state review panel may critically evaluate the school's performance and make certain recommendations. The bill adds that the state review

panel may recommend that a public school serving students in kindergarten through third grade invest in research-based strategies to address deficiencies identified by the early childhood learning needs assessment, as long as the strategies have not been implemented in the previous five years and the cause of the school's failure to improve is related to lack of access to quality early learning opportunities.

Background

The school accountability process results in accreditation by the State Board of Education when a district and individual schools within a district meet required laws and rules. Each category of accreditation requires the district to create a corresponding improvement plan. The five categories of accreditation and improvement plans are:

- Accredited with Distinction (met or exceeded state expectations);
- Accredited (met expectations; must implement a performance plan);
- Accredited with Improvement Plan (not met expectations; must implement an improvement plan);
- Accredited with Priority Improvement Plan (not met expectations; must implement a priority improvement plan); and
- Accredited with Turnaround Plan (not met expectations; must implement a turnaround plan).

Schools are also annually assigned one of the following plans, based on performance framework metrics: performance plan, improvement plan, priority improvement plan, or turnaround plan. Schools and districts may not remain accredited in the lowest two categories for longer than five years before the State Board of Education takes corrective action.

State Expenditures

In FY 2017-18 only, the bill increases General Fund expenditures for CDE by \$9,000 to create tools and guidance to support schools and districts that must conduct an early childhood education needs assessment and identify strategies to address those needs. The fiscal note assumes five days of consultant work at \$1,800 per day. The bill also increases the workload for the Office of Early Childhood in CDE to provide technical assistance to schools and districts related to quality and availability of early childhood education; this workload increase can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

School District Impact

The bill increases costs and workload for schools and school districts with a priority improvement plan or turnaround plan to conduct a needs assessment related to early childhood education. Costs vary by district depending on the district plan and the types of plans required for each school within the district.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.

State Appropriations

In FY 2017-18, the bill requires a General Fund appropriation of \$9,000 to the Colorado Department of Education.

State and Local Government Contacts

Education

Human Services

School Districts